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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/701,999	11/04/2003	Catherine G. Quick	CGQ-1	6648
40023	7590	08/10/2005	EXAMINER	
DAVID M. CARTER CARTER SCHNEDLER & MONTEITH, P.A. 56 CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 101 P.O. BOX 2985 ASHVILLE, NC 28802			AMERSON, LORI BAKER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3764	
DATE MAILED: 08/10/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/701,999	QUICK, CATHERINE G.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	L Amerson	3764	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 26-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 26-28 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11-4-03
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: NPL.

Response to Arguments

1. The indicated allowability of claims 26-28 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

a. Claims 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abilitations Integrations Catalog in view of Fennell. Abilitations teaches the method for exercising an apparatus inflated to a rigid state, but does not disclose the apparatus having a rigid core element. Thus, Fennell teaches a rigid core (col. 2, line 46) element. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify Abilitations in view of the teaching of Fennell such that a rigid core prevents the device from collapsing.

b. Claims 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abilitations Integrations Catalog in view of Hsia. Abilitations teaches the method for exercising an apparatus inflated to a rigid state, but does not disclose the apparatus having a rigid core element. Thus, Hsia teaches a rigid core 17 and cushion 16 element. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify Abilitations in view of the teaching of Hsia such that a rigid core prevents the device from collapsing.

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c. Claims 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abilitations Integrations Catalog in view of Mahdavi. Abilitations teaches the method for exercising an apparatus inflated to a rigid state, but does not disclose the apparatus having a rigid core element. Thus, Mahdavi teaches a rigid core element. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify Abilitations in view of the teaching of Mahdavi such that a rigid core prevents the device from collapsing.

d. Claims 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abilitations Integrations Catalog and Mahdavi view of Linge. Abilitations and Mahdavi teach the method for exercising an apparatus inflated to a rigid state, but does not disclose the apparatus having a hollow cavity. Thus, Linge teaches a hollow cavity 46. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify Abilitations in view of the teaching of Linge such that a hollow cavity is capable for storage.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to L Amerson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4971. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri from 9-6 p.m. Interviews Tue. and Thur..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Huson can be reached on 571-272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LAmerson